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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 06 ISLAMABAD 004780

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PD, DRL
LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: INDO-PAK TENSIONS; PAKISTAN
POLITICAL SITUATION; AFGHANISTAN; MIDDLE EAST PEACE
PROCESS; TERRORISM; AFGHANISTAN

(JUNE 13, 2002)

NEWS:

INDO-PAK TENSIONS
PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION
AFGHANISTAN

OPINION:

INDO-PAK TENSIONS
MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS
TERRORISM
AFGHANISTAN

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1. HEADLINES

"PAKISTAN TO SECURE LATEST EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. FOR
INVESTIGATION OF TERRORISM, SERIOUS CRIME," "JANG"
(06/13)

"STATE DEPARTMENT ASKS FBI TO STOP OPERATIONS AGAINST
AL- QAEDA IN KARACHI," "UMMAT" (06/13)

-- NEWS

-- INDO-PAK TENSIONS

2. "U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY IN ISLAMABAD," "THE
NATION" (06/13)

QUOTE: U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD,
CARRYING FRESH PROPOSALS TO DEFUSE PAK-INDIA TENSION,
ARRIVED IN ISLAMABAD WEDNESDAY EVENING FROM NEW DELHI
WHERE HE HAD DISCUSSED THESE MATTERS WITH THE INDIAN
LEADERSHIP IN DETAIL.... END QUOTE.

3. "RUMSFELD VISIT TO STRENGTHEN PAK-U.S. DEFENSE
TIES," "THE NEWS" (06/13)

QUOTE: THE VISIT OF THE U.S. DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD
RUMSFELD TO ISLAMABAD WILL STRENGTHEN DEFENSE
RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AMERICA, THOUGH ITS KEY
EMPHASIS IS ON COUNTERING TERRORISM AND PEACE IN THE
SOUTH ASIAN REGION.... END QUOTE.

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 4. "RUMSFELD CEMENTS U.S. PRESENCE IN REGION,"
 "PAKISTAN OBSERVER" (06/13)

QUOTE: IN A CLEAR EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE AMERICAN
 PRESENCE IN THIS REGION, U.S. SECRETARY DONALD
 RUMSFELD SAID ON WEDNESDAY IN DELHI THAT WASHINGTON
 HAD EVIDENCE THAT AL-QAEDA HAD BECOME ACTIVE ACROSS
 THE LINE OF CONTROL AND IN KASHMIR.... END QUOTE.

5. "SITUATION WITH INDIA STILL GRIM: MUSHARRAF,"
 "DAWN" (06/13)

QUOTE: PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF LEFT MADINA MUNAWWARA
 AFTER COMPLETING HIS TWO-DAY VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.
 EARLIER TALKING TO LEADING SAUDI INTELLECTUALS AND
 OPINION MAKERS HE SAID THAT THE SITUATION WITH INDIA
 REMAINS 'GRIM' ADDING THAT MEASURES TAKEN BY NEWS
 DELHI TO EASE TENSION ARE NOT ENOUGH.... END QUOTE.

6. "INDIA NOT SERIOUS ABOUT DE-ESCALATION," "THE
 NATION" (06/13)

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POLITICAL SITUATION; AFGHANISTAN; MIDDLE EAST PEACE
PROCESS; TERRORISM; AFGHANISTAN

QUOTE: PLACATING THE WEST WITH COSMETIC CONFIDENCE-
BUILDING MEASURES, NEW DELHI WILL NOT SERIOUSLY DE-
ESCALATE OR START A DIALOGUE UNTIL OCTOBER WHEN IT
BELIEVES IT WOULD BE IN A BETTER NEGOTIATING POSITION
AFTER HAVING HELD ELECTIONS IN KASHMIR, WELL-PLACED
SOURCES TOLD "THE NATION" YESTERDAY.... END QUOTE.

7. "ISLAMABAD ASKS FOR IRON-CLAD GUARANTEES," "DAWN"
(06/13)

QUOTE: PAKISTAN HAS ASKED THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE AMERICANS, FOR SOME IRON-
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CLAD GUARANTEES THAT INDIA WILL NOT USE THE PRETEXT OF
LOCALLY INSPIRED JIHADI ACTIVITY LINKED TO THE ONGOING
FREEDOM STRUGGLE INSIDE OCCUPIED KASHMIR TO COMMIT
SOME ADVENTURISM ON THE LOC AT SOME FUTURE DATE....

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END QUOTE.

-- PAKISTAN POLITICAL SITUATION

8. "RIBA-FREE BANKING NOT FEASIBLE, GOVT. TELLS SC,"
"DAILY TIMES" (06/13)

QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT HAS FILED A REPLY BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF A TASK FORCE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RIBA (INTEREST) BEFORE THE SHARIAT APPELLATE BENCH OF THE SUPREME COURT, SAYING THE CONVERSION OF THE EXISTING BANKING SYSTEM TO AN INTEREST-FREE SYSTEM IS NOT FEASIBLE AND IF ATTEMPTED WILL POSE A HIGH DEGREE OF RISK TO ECONOMIC STABILITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY....
END QUOTE.

-- AFGHANISTAN

9. "LOYA JIRGA SUCCESS CHANCES GRIM," "PAKISTAN OBSERVER" (06/13)

QUOTE: THE MUCH ORCHESTRATED LOYA JIRGA (GRAND ASSEMBLY) OF AFGHANISTAN, BELIEVED TO BE SUPERVISED AND "DIRECTED" BY THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION, RECEIVED A BLOW ON WEDNESDAY WHEN A NUMBER OF JIRGA MEMBERS HAILING FROM SOUTH-EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY BOYCOTTED THE SESSION TERMING THE MEETING NOTHING MORE
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THAN A DRAMA.... HENCE THE SUCCESS CHANCES OF THE LOYA JIRGA, WHICH WAS STARTED IN A PEACEFUL MANNER ON TUESDAY AFTER THE REMOVAL OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS AMONG THE JIRGA MEMBERS, HAVE GONE GRIM AS THE DIFFERENCES STARTED SURFACING ONCE AGAIN IN THE MEETING OF THE 1500 AFGHAN ELDERS WHO GATHERED TO FINALIZE THE FUTURE SETUP OF AFGHANISTAN.... END QUOTE.

OPINION

-- INDO-PAK TENSIONS

10. "AN UNRESOLVED CRISIS," AN EDITORIAL IN THE CENTER-RIGHT NATIONAL DAILY, "THE NATION" (06/13)

QUOTE: DESPITE RECENT DE-ESCALATORY MEASURES BY INDIA AND PAKISTAN, THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR CONTINUES TO LURK. WHILE PRESIDENT BUSH WELCOMED THESE STEPS, HE IS

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STILL NOT CONFIDENT IF THEY ARE ENOUGH TO ENSURE

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PEACE. SECRETARY RUMSFELD ALSO THINKS THAT THOUGH THE
TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS LEVELED OFF, THE
SITUATION ON THE GROUND HAS NOT IMPROVED.... AS LONG
AS THE CORE ISSUE OF KASHMIR REMAINS UN-ADDRESSED,
PEACE IN SOUTH ASIA WILL CONTINUE TO HANG BY A
THREAD. WHAT IS REQUIRED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IS TO GO BEYOND YET
ANOTHER FIREFIGHTING EXERCISE TO ADDRESS THE CORE
ISSUE. MR. ARMITAGE CONCEDED THAT THE SPECTER OF
NUCLEAR WAR IS SO FRIGHTENING THAT THE QUESTION OF
KASHMIR IS MUCH HIGHER ON THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA
THAN IT HAD BEEN BEFORE. HAD THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS
IN HELD-KASHMIR BEEN THE KEY TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE

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55-YEAR-OLD ISSUE, THE MATTER WOULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED
LONG AGO AND THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO NEED FOR INDIA
TO DEPLOY 700,000 TROOPS. INDIA HAS THEREFORE TO BE
PRESSED TO RESUME TALKS WITH PAKISTAN AIMED AT A
PERMANENT SOLUTION OF THE KASHMIR PROBLEM IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF ITS PEOPLE. UNLESS THIS
IS DONE, WAR CLOUDS WILL CONTINUE TO DARKEN SOUTH
ASIA. END QUOTE.

11. "INDIA'S STEPS," AN EDITORIAL IN THE PESHAWAR-
BASED INDEPENDENT, "FRONTIER POST" (06/13)

QUOTE: THOUGH THE U.S. HAS SHOWN ITS
SATISFACTION OVER INDIA'S MEASURES, IT CONTINUES TO
SEE THE GROUND SITUATION AS ALARMING. BOTH PRESIDENT
BUSH AND DEFENSE SECRETARY RUMSFELD HAVE EXPRESSED
THIS OPINION. THE LATTER, WHO IS ON A VISIT TO BOTH
INDIA AND PAKISTAN, IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE BROUGHT
WITH HIM A PLAN THAT ENVISAGES JOINT U.S.-INDIA
PATROLLING IN OCCUPIED KASHMIR AS WELL AS AIRBORNE
SURVEILLANCE OF THE BORDERS. WHETHER HE WILL HAVE THE
APPROVAL OF BOTH SIDES IS UNCERTAIN. WHAT IS CERTAIN
IS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY THE
U.S., MAY NOW BE FEELING COMPELLED TO JETTISON ITS
POLICY OF BURYING ITS HEAD IN THE SAND WITH REGARD TO
THE KASHMIR DISPUTE. WITH THE TROOPS OF BOTH NUCLEAR
COUNTRIES STANDING AT HAIR-TRIGGER DISTANCE, IT CANNOT

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CONTINUE TO IGNORE THE GROWING FEARS AND INSECURITY OF
THE PEOPLE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR AND THE
REGION IN GENERAL.... END QUOTE.

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12. "KASHMIR DISPUTE: ILLUSION OF MEDIATION," AN
EDITORIAL IN THE SECOND LARGEST URDU DAILY, "NAWA-E-
WAQT" (06/13)

QUOTE: SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI,
PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF SAID THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION
DEMANDS INTERVENTION BY A THIRD PARTY, THE MEDIATION
HAS IN FACT BEGUN AND THIS PROCESS SHOULD CONTINUE
UNTIL THE RESOLUTION OF THE CORE ISSUE, THE KASHMIR
DISPUTE.... IF WE CONTINUED WITH OUR DEMAND FOR
MEDIATION AND INDIA ACCEPTED THAT, AND WE ENDED UP
GETTING A MEDIATOR LIKE AMERICA WHOSE DECISION
PAKISTAN COULD NOT REJECT, THEN OUR OWN SECURITY,
FREEDOM AND INTERESTS WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED AND WE
WOULD NOT GET ANYTHING EXCEPT REPENTANCE. SO WE NEED
NOT MAKE SUCH A BIG SACRIFICE FOR JUST ENDING THE
BORDER TENSION. IF IN THE WORDS OF ARMITAGE, THE
KASHMIR DISPUTE IS REALLY ON THE TOP OF INTERNATIONAL
AGENDA, THEN INDIA SHOULD BE ASKED TO WITHDRAW ITS
700,000 TROOPS FROM KASHMIR AND HOLD A PLEBISCITE IN
JAMMU AND KASHMIR TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. END QUOTE.

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PROCESS; TERRORISM; AFGHANISTAN

13. "AIM SHOULD BE TO END THE DANGER OF CONFLICT," AN
EDITORIAL IN THE POPULAR URDU DAILY, "DIN" (06/13)

QUOTE: WHILE PRAISING THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO END
PAK-INDIA TENSION, SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN POWELL HAS
RIGHTLY POINTED TO THE POTENTIAL OF THE WORLD
COMMUNITY TO WORK IN UNISON TO WARD OFF ANY DANGER....
REALISM DEMANDS BEGINNING A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO PERMANENTLY END THE
DANGER OF A CONFLICT.... THE KASHMIRIS RIGHT TO
SELF-DETERMINATION CANNOT BE DENIED FOR LONG, NOR CAN
THE KASHMIRIS BE STOPPED FOREVER FROM GOING TO INDIAN-
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HELD KASHMIR TO HELP THEIR BRETHREN. END QUOTE.

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14. "ARMY ALONE CAN NOT MANAGE IT ANYMORE," AN OP-ED BY NUSRAT MIRZA IN THE SECOND LARGEST URDU DAILY, "NAWA-E-WAQT" (06/13)

QUOTE: THE WEST HAS JOINED HANDS AGAINST ISLAM AND HAS ALSO COLLABORATED WITH HINDUS AND RUSSIANS. FRANCE USED TO RESIST AMERICA BUT IT WAS STRAIGHTENED OUT AFTER THE MAY 8-SUICIDE ATTACK IN KARACHI. WHO CARRIED OUT MAY 8 ATTACK WE DON'T KNOW, BUT THE ENTIRE ADVANTAGE OF THAT EVENT WENT IN FAVOR OF AMERICA. THE STAGE OF CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS HAS BEEN SET.... THE SITUATION MIGHT HAVE BEEN A BIT CLEARER FOR GENERAL MUSHARRAF NOW. IF HE IS A PATRIOT AND KNOWS ABOUT AMERICAN DESIGNS THEN HE NEEDS TO HAVE A COMPLICATED STRATEGY TO WRIGGLE OUT OF THIS HOPELESS STATE OF AFFAIRS. I BELIEVE THAT GENERAL MUSHARRAF AND HIS ASSOCIATES DO NOT HAVE THIS ABILITY.... EVEN NOW SOME INTELLECTUALS OF PAKISTAN COULD FIND A WAY OUT OF THE DANGEROUS SITUATION, BUT FOR THAT, GENERAL MUSHARRAF WILL HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE SHELL OF HIS EGO. END QUOTE.

15. "POSSIBILITY OF WAR RECEDING," AN OP-ED BY TAUSEEF AHMED KHAN IN THE POPULAR URDU DAILY, "DIN" (06/13)

QUOTE: THE WORLD POWERS' ROBUST EFFORTS HAVE WARDED OFF THE POSSIBILITY OF WAR BETWEEN TWO NUCLEAR POWERS.... WHY ARE OUR JIHADI ORGANIZATIONS SO
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INTERESTED IN BLOODLETTING? ON ONE HAND THEY SAY THAT ISLAM IS A RELIGION OF PEACE, AND ON THE OTHER THEY WANT TO SPREAD ISLAM THROUGH FORCE. WHY DO THEY FORGET THAT PAKISTAN CANNOT RESOLVE THE KASHMIR DISPUTE THROUGH WAR AND IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT PAKISTAN CAN NEVER DEFEAT INDIA IN A WAR? WHY IS IT FORGOTTEN THAT PAKISTAN WAS DEFEATED IN THE 1965 WAR.... PAKISTAN SUFFERED A HUMILIATING DEFEAT IN THE 1971 WAR.... WAR ONLY BRINGS DESTRUCTION FOR THE PEOPLE.... PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF HAS OFFERED TO DESTROY OUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS, A NO WAR PACT WITH INDIA, AND TO RESOLVE THE KASHMIR DISPUTE THROUGH DIALOGUE. IF THESE PROPOSALS ARE IMPLEMENTED, THEN THE BILLIONS OF RUPEES BEING SPENT ON THE TWO ARMIES WOULD BE SPENT ON THE WELFARE OF THE TWO PEOPLES. WE APPEAL TO THE TWO COUNTRIES TO LIVE LIKE GOOD NEIGHBORS AND MAKE THEIR PEOPLE PROSPEROUS. THIS WAY

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EVERY GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WOULD NOT TOUR AMERICA
WITH KASHMIR ISSUE ON ITS AGENDA. END QUOTE.

16. "THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR IT," AN EDITORIAL IN

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PROCESS; TERRORISM; AFGHANISTAN

THE SENSATIONALIST URDU DAILY, "UMMAT" (06/13)

QUOTE: INSTEAD OF TAKING SUPERFICIAL AND SECONDARY
LEVEL STEPS, INDIA SHOULD DIRECTLY COME TOWARDS THE
CORE ISSUE AND RETURN THE PEOPLE OF KASHMIR THEIR
BASIC RIGHTS. AS LONG AS INDIA DOES NOT ADDRESS THIS
ISSUE, PEACE IN THE REGION CANNOT BE ACHIEVED. END
QUOTE.

17. "MEDIATION PROCESS: ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF
KASHMIR MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION," AN EDITORIAL
IN THE LEADING MASS CIRCULATION URDU DAILY, "JANG"
(06/13)

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QUOTE: REALIZATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL
THAT THE KASHMIR ISSUE MUST BE RESOLVED, WHICH IS THE
BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA, SHOULD
IN FACT BE WELCOMED BY ALL THE PEACE LOVING QUARTERS
OF THE WORLD. UNTIL THE TIME THAT THE KASHMIR ISSUE IS
JUSTLY RESOLVED NOBODY SHOULD EXPECT A DEFUSION IN THE
TENSION CURRENTLY PREVAILING IN THE REGION. END
QUOTE.

-- MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

18. "BYPASSING THE REAL ISSUE," AN EDITORIAL IN THE
KARACHI-BASED INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DAILY, "DAWN"
(06/13)

QUOTE: IT IS OBVIOUS NOW THAT A MIDDLE EAST PEACE
CONFERENCE IN JULY IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, THANKS TO
THE COMBINED U.S.-ISRAELI OPPOSITION TO THE IDEA....
WITH THIS ABOUT-FACE, THE REAL ISSUE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST IS BEING SIDELINED. THE ISSUE NOW BEING TALKED
ABOUT BY AMERICAN LEADERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT BUSH,
IS THE CAPABILITY OF YASSER ARAFAT TO DELIVER ON THE
PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS HE MAKES AND THE PURPORTED

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NEED FOR A REFORM OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY....
 THE REAL ISSUE IS NOT REFORM, NOR ARAFAT'S SUPPOSED
 LOOSENING GRIP ON POWER AND AUTHORITY. THE REAL ISSUE
 IS THE FREEDOM OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.... END
 QUOTE.

-- TERRORISM

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19. "HOAX COMING APART," AN EDITORIAL IN THE
 PESHAWAR-BASED INDEPENDENT, "FRONTIER POST" (06/13)

QUOTE: ... DOUBTERS SMELL A RAT IN THE WHOLE STORY.
 THEY SENSED IN THE WORKS THE HAND OF THE U.S.
 INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES. AS THESE AGENCIES,
 PARTICULARLY THE FBI AND THE CIA ARE REELING UNDER
 INTENSE FIRE FROM ACROSS THE SPECTRUM FOR THEIR
 MONUMENTAL FAILURE IN DETECTING AND PRE-EMPTING THE
 SEPTEMBER 11 TERRORIST ATTACKS, THE DOUBTERS CONTEND
 THESE OUTFITS HAVE FABRICATED THIS HOAX TO SPRUCE UP
 THEIR BADLY MAULED PUBLIC IMAGE. BUT THE HOAX HAS
 STARTED COMING APART. ON THE ONE HAND, THE STORY IS
 FULL OF HOLES AND IS BEING TORN APART BY THE AMERICAN
 MEDIA. ON THE OTHER, ABDULLAH HIMSELF HAS CHALLENGED
 HIS DETENTION IN A COURT, WITH CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS
 BACKING HIM FORCEFULLY. OF ALL THE REPORTS POURING
 COLD WATER OVER THE STORY, THE MOST DAMNING IS THIS
 NEWSPAPER'S REVELATION BASED ON CREDIBLE INFORMATION
 THAT HE WAS NOT ARRESTED AT ALL AT CHICAGO AIRPORT.

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 ACTION INR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DS-00	EAP-00
	EUR-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	VCE-00	AC-01	NEA-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	PA-00
	ACE-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00	USIE-00	SA-00	R-00
	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/007W

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 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8326
 SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE IMMEDIATE
THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA IMMEDIATE
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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CCPA IMMEDIATE
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 06 ISLAMABAD 004780

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, IIP/T, IIP/G/NEA-SA, SA
SA/PAB, SA/INS, SA/RA, SA/PD, DRL
LONDON FOR POL/GOODRICH; PARIS FOR POL/HANSON
CENTCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS-MAJ.BALDWIN/SGT. BAKER
USCINCPAC FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR HOLZMAN
SECDEF FOR PA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OPRC, PGOV, PREL, KMDR, PK
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: INDO-PAK TENSIONS; PAKISTAN
POLITICAL SITUATION; AFGHANISTAN; MIDDLE EAST PEACE
PROCESS; TERRORISM; AFGHANISTAN

ON THE CONTRARY, HE WAS HAULED UP IN PAKISTAN BY THE
PAKISTANI SECURITY AGENCIES IN THE APRIL SWOOP THAT
NETTED ABU ZUBAYDA AND SEVERAL OTHER AL-QAEDA MEMBERS
AND WAS AMONG THOSE TRANSFERRED TO U.S. CUSTODY BY THE
PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING....
WHAT IS ASTOUNDING IN ALL THIS IS THE BUSH
ADMINISTRATION'S READINESS, INDEED ENTHUSIASM, TO
BECOME A WILLING ACCOMPLICE OF THE AGENCIES IN THEIR
IMAGE-REVAMPING CAMPAIGN. OBVIOUSLY FOR GREATER
IMPACT, ASHCROFT TOOK TIME OUT OF HIS VISIT
ENGAGEMENTS IN MOSCOW TO MAKE THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IN A
DRAMATIC FASHION VIA TV HOOKUP. THE ADMINISTRATION
MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IN THIS INFORMATION AGE, FACTS

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CANNOT BE SUPPRESSED FOR LONG. THE TRUTH COMES OUT
SOONER OR LATER. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE MAKING A
FOOL OF ITSELF BY BECOMING AN UNTHINKING TOOL IN THE
HANDS OF THE AGENCIES. ALREADY, ITS WAR ON TERRORISM
HAS TURNED INTO A LICENSE FOR STATE TERRORISTS. THE
WHOLE OF THAT WAR COULD BECOME A CRUEL JOKE IF IT ALSO
TURNS INTO AN IMAGE-MAKER OF THE INCOMPETENT. END
QUOTE.

-- AFGHANISTAN

20. "LOYA JIRGA OR U.S. DECEPTION," AN EDITORIAL IN
THE KARACHI-BASED PRO TALIBAN URDU DAILY, "ISLAM"
(06/13)

QUOTE: THE DRAMA BEING ENACTED IN THE NAME OF LOYA
JIRGA IS NOTHING BUT A U.S. DECEPTION AIMED AT
OBTAINING CONTROL OF AFGHANISTAN. BY IMPOSING HAMID
KARZAI, WHO DOES NOT HAVE ANY POLITICAL POWER OR THE
BACKING OF ANY AFGHAN TRIBES, THE U.S. WANTS TO
FULFILL ITS OWN INTERESTS. DURING THE LAST SIX
MONTHS, NEITHER HAS PEACE BEEN ESTABLISHED NOR
RECONSTRUCTION WORK STARTED, AS PROMISED BY THE
COMMITMENTS HELD OUT AT BONN. END QUOTE. POWELL

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